

H.R. 5861, BRIDGE for Workers Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Ways and Means on November 2, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2028	2024-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 5861 would broaden eligibility for reemployment services and eligibility assessments (RESEAs) that are carried out by the Department of Labor (DOL). Current law requires states to provide services to claimants who are likely to exhaust unemployment compensation, but states have broad flexibility in how they determine whether a claimant is likely to exhaust benefits. Beginning in 2019, annual appropriation acts have allowed states to conduct RESEAs for all unemployment claimants without determining that they are likely to exhaust benefits; H.R. 5861 would permanently allow states this flexibility. In 2023, appropriations for RESEAs totaled \$375 million.

CBO expects that under H.R. 5861, states would continue to provide reemployment services to people they believe are likely to exhaust unemployment insurance benefits to meet DOL’s requirements for participant outcomes. Using information from DOL, CBO expects that implementing H.R. 5861 would not significantly change the number of people who receive reemployment services and eligibility assessments or the cost of those services. On that basis, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5861 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2028 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

See also

[CBO’s Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Meredith Decker. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip L. Swagel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office